

COVER SHEET

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of Energy

Title: Draft West Valley Demonstration Project Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement, Cattaraugus County, West Valley, New York.

Contact:

For further information about this Environmental Impact Statement, contact:

Daniel W. Sullivan
Document Manager
DOE West Valley Area Office
P.O. Box 191
West Valley, NY 14171-0191
1-800-633-5280

For general information on the Department of Energy's process for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, contact:

Carol Borgstrom, Director
Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (EH-42)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Environment,
Safety and Health
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585
(202) 586-4600 or leave a message at (800) 472-2756

Abstract:

The purpose of the *Draft West Valley Demonstration Project Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement* is to provide information on the environmental impacts of the Department of Energy's proposed action to ship radioactive wastes that are either currently in storage, or that will be generated from operations over the next 10 years, to offsite disposal locations, and to continue its ongoing onsite waste management activities. Decommissioning or long-term stewardship decisions will be reached based on a separate EIS that is being prepared for that decisionmaking. This EIS evaluates the environmental consequences that may result from actions to implement the proposed action, including the impacts to the onsite workers and the offsite public from waste transportation and onsite waste management. The EIS analyzes a no action alternative, under which most wastes would continue to be stored onsite over the next 10 years. It also analyzes an alternative under which certain wastes would be shipped to interim offsite storage locations prior to disposal, and actions that would be taken in the onsite high-level waste storage tanks to add a retrievable grout to provide additional interim stabilization. The Department's preferred alternative is to ship wastes to offsite disposal locations and continue to manage the waste storage tanks without taking additional interim stabilization measures.

Public Comments:

Public hearings on the Draft EIS will be announced in April of 2003. Oral and written comments are invited at these hearings. Commentors are also encouraged to send written comments until May of 2003 (see Notice of Availability for exact date) at the DOE West Valley address provided above. DOE will consider all public and agency comments submitted during the public comment period on the Draft EIS in preparing the Final EIS. Comments received after the close of the public comment period will be considered to the extent practicable.